

Message Text

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SUBJECT: AMERICAN VISITS OF TWO SOCIALIST PARLIAMENTARIANS

BEGIN SUMMARY. DURING NEXT SIX WEEKS, TWO SOCIALIST (PSI) PARLIAMENTARIANS WILL BE TRAVELLING TO THE UNITED STATES FOR TOURISM. HOWEVER, BOTH WOULD LIKE TO COMBINE PLEASURE WITH BUSINESS AND ACCORDINGLY WOULD WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH AMERICAN OFFICIALS QUALIFIED TO DISCUSS US-EUROPEAN AND US-ITALIAN RELATIONS. EMBASSY BELIEVES VISITS OFFER USEFUL OPPORTUNITY FOR FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH EXPONENTS OF TWO FACTIONS OF THE PSI AND URGES THAT DEPARTMENT PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN ARRANGING FOR APPROPRIATE APPOINTMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. WITHIN NEXT SIX WEEKS TWO PSI PARLIAMENTARIANS, ON. MICHEL ACHILLI AND SENATORE ALDO AJELLO WILL BE TRAVELLING TO THE UNITED STATES FOR FAMILY VACATIONS. BOTH HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN MEETINGS WITH APPROPRIATE AMERICAN OFFICIALS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS RELATED ORGANIZATIONS FOR AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON US-EUROPEAN AND US-ITALIAN RELATIONS.

2. ON. ACHILLI WILL BE ARRIVING IN THE US ON AUGUST 6 FOR A ONE-MONTH STAY, THE FIRST HALF OF WHICH WILL BE SPENT IN WASHINGTON WITH THE REMAINDER BEING SPENT IN NEW YORK AND
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POSSIBLY BOSTON. A MEMBER OF THE LOMBARDI WING (EXTREME LEFT)

OF THE PSI, ACHILLI WAS FIRST ELECTED TO THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES IN 1968. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE PSI CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND IS A VICE PRESIDENT OF THE PSI GROUP IN THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES (WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR COORDINATING PSI COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES). HE IS ALSO ON THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMISSION OF THE PARTY AND IS RESPONSIBLE FOR A SMALL RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON FOREIGN POLICY OPERATED BY THE PARTY.

3. ACHILLI WILL ARRIVE IN AMERICA ARMED WITH A LIST OF INTRODUCTIONS FROM SOCIALIST FRIENDS IN ITALY, INCLUDING ON. GIO-LITTI (WHOM HE SUPPORTED AS A SUCCESSOR TO PARTY SECRETARY DE MARTINO). EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT ACHILLI, AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LEFT-WING OF THE PSI, WOULD BENEFIT FROM A FRANK DISCUSSION WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS. AS A STARTER, WE WOULD PROPOSE THAT HE SEE DEP ASST LAINGEN AND WE DIRECTOR BARBOUR. IF THESE DISCUSSIONS GO WELL, DEPARTMENT MIGHT THEN CONSIDER MAKING ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENTS (INCLUDING POSSIBLY ONE OR TWO WITH APPROPRIATE MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS) ACCORDING TO ACHILLI'S INTERESTS. (BY TRAINING, ACHILLI IS AN ARCHITECT AND HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN PROMOTING URBAN PLANNING LEGISLATION.)

4. ACHILLI, WHO IS 45 YEARS OLD, IS FROM MILAN. MARRIED TO AN ENGLISHWOMAN (THEY HAVE TWO CHILDREN), ACHILLI STATES THAT HE HAS A WORKABLE KNOWLEDGE OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND THEREFORE AN INTERPRETER WOULD NOT BE NEEDED FOR HIS APPOINTMENTS. IF DEPARTMENT AGREEABLE TO ASSIST IN ARRANGING SOME PROGRAMMING FOR ACHILLI, WE WILL SUGGEST THAT HE CALL EUR/WE (SWIHART) AFTER HIS ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON TO ARRANGE THE TIMING OF THE APPOINTMENTS.

5. SENATOR AJELLO, WHO IS MARRIED TO A FORMER USIS STAFFER, WILL BE IN THE UNITED STATES DURING SEPTEMBER TO VISIT HIS IN-LAWS IN CLEVELAND. HE HAS REQUESTED THE EMBASSY TO ARRANGE APPROPRIATE MEETINGS FOR HIM IN WASHINGTON DURING THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 10-15. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT THE REQUEST PROVIDES AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY FOR A FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH A YOUNG, INFLUENTIAL SOCIALIST LEADER SYMPATHETIC TO THE UNITED STATES. AJELLO RAN FOR THE SENATE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN JUNE AND OWES HIS POSITION IN THE PARTY TO SEVEN YEARS OF ASTUTE SERVICE AS FORMER SECRETARY DE MARTINO'S PERSONAL

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ASSISTANT. IN OUR CONTACTS WITH AJELLO, EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE FOUND HIM TO BE A SKILLFUL EXPONENT OF HIS PARTY'S VIEWS AND IT IS OUR ASSESSMENT THAT HE WILL HAVE A FUTURE IN THE PARTY. IN VIEW OF THIS, THE LEVEL OF PROGRAMMING FOR HIM SHOULD BE HIGHER THAN THAT FOR ACHILLI.

6. IN TERMS OF PROGRAMMING, WE WOULD SUGGEST MEETINGS IN THE DEPARTMENT AT THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL, WITH PROMINENT

CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS OF BOTH PARTIES, WITH LABOR LEADERS,
AND WITH OTHER REPRESENTATIVES OF OPINION MOLDING GROUPS.
UNDERSTANDS ENGLISH WELL AND CAN EXPRESS HIMSELF ADE-
QUATELY. ACCORDINGLY, NO INTERPRETER IS REQUIRED. DEPART-
MENT IS REQUESTED TO ADVISE EMBASSY IF IT CAN ASSIST IN PRO-
GRAMMING AJELLO. VOLPE

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